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AN ADVERTISEMENT FROM THE COMPANY OF Tinn-Plate-Workers OF LONDON;

Concerning the Erecting of *Lamp Lights.*

WHEREAS One *Edward Windus* in the Thirty Sixth Year of King *Charles* the Second, (upon Suggestion that he had obtained a Discovery of a New Experiment, for the great and durable Increase of Light by extraordinary Glasses and Lamps,) whereupon his then Majesty did grant unto him the said *Edward Windus*, a Patent for the better improvement of Ship Lanthorns, Light-houses, and dispersing of Light in Mines, and such like places. But upon condition, that if it should prove grievous to any his Loving Subjects, the Patent to be void, as by the Patent appears.

That since the granting of this Patent, several Gentlemen and others have obtained a Share or Right in the same of the Original Pattentee, and under Colour and Pretence of that, do now presume to set up and erect those Lamp-Lights within this City and Suburbs, and the Streets, and Lanes thereof; notwithstanding there is no grant in the Patent for so doing; And under the Umbrage of it, do take all the indirect means that Malice can invent, to prevent those from erecting those Lights, who indeed have the only Right to do it, (namely, the Company of Tinn-plate-workers of *London.*)

That accordingly several Falsities and Threats are spread abroad, on purpose to amuse and frighten the Inhabitants: The Company of Tinn-plate-workers of *London*, therefore thought it advisable to make publick to the World the indirect ways that is taken by these Pattentees, to interrupt the said Company in the free Exercise of their Trade; And if such Pretensions as these should meet with incouragement, the trading Part of the Nation must of necessity be undone; Farewel all Communities, and Bodies Corporate. We that are the Company do believe, and hope, that the thinking Part of Mankind will consider it; and especially in this Case of the Tinn-plate-workers: For by the same Rule, all handicraft Trades may fall under the same Predictment, and consequently they and their Families brought to Ruine.

But to state nothing but Fact; in short, take the Cause in the late Act of Parliament: Intituled, *An Act for paving and cleansing the Streets in the City of* London *and* Westminster, *and Suburbs and Liberties thereof passed in*, &c. 1690. (*Verbatim*) And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid; That

every

every Houſholder within any of the Pariſhes, Places or Precincts in the Counties of Middleſex and Surrey, and City and Liberties of Weſtminſter, comprized within the weekly Bills of Mortality, whoſe Houſe adjoins unto, or is near the Street, from Michaelmas unto our Lady-day yearly; ſhall every Night ſet or hang out Candles, or Light in Lanthorns, on the outſide of the Houſe next the Street, to enlighten the ſame for the Conveniency of paſſengers, from time to time as it ſhall grow dark, until Twelve of the Clock at Night, upon pain to forfeit the Summ of two Shillings for every Default; excepting ſuch Perſon or Perſons, as ſhall agree to make uſe of Lamps of any ſort, to be placed at ſuch Diſtances in the Street, as ſhall be approved of by two or more Juſtices of the Peace.

By the Clauſe in the Act you may perceive, that every Inhabitant is injoined to hang out Candles or Lights in Lanthorns; the Direction in the Act is according to the Antient way of Lighting the Streets; ſo 'tis plain, the Tinn-plate-workers do not only looſe a conſiderable Branch of their Trade, which is making and vending Tin-Lanthorns: But if the aforeſaid Pattentees might Rule: Muſt the Company be hindred from Erecting theſe Lamp-Lights, which the ſaid Company have made above Twenty Years ago, and is as much a Part of their Trade, as making of Tinn-Lanthorns; and 'twould be very hard for the Company to looſe the Advantage of making of Lamps, ſince they looſe ſuch a Branch of their Trade, as aforeſaid?

Now by this Act of Parliament, 'tis indifferently left to every Man's Liberty, to make uſe of what Lamps he thinks fit, or to uſe none at all: So far it is from Compulſion in any kind: And 'tis plain, the Parliament at the time of making this Act, had a regard to the Company, and what was done by them was intended in favour and eaſe of the Subject, and never intended to incourage Monopolies of any kind.

A great deal more might be ſaid, but we the Company aforeſaid, do this only to ſatisfie the World of the Juſtice of our Caſe, and to ſhew that the Proceedings of thoſe that call themſelves Pattentees to be unjuſt. As thus, their going from place to place, and forewarning the Inhabitants from contracting with the ſaid Company, for the ſaid Lamp-Lights; threatning them if they do, they will make them pay over again; and where the Company have already contracted, do go and Actually erect Poſts, and other Conveniencies for ſetting up their Lights, amongſt thoſe very Inhabitants, with whom the ſaid Company have already contracted, and did light the laſt Year.

This being ſome Part of the Caſe;

THE ſaid Company intending to maintain their Rights and Priviledges which by Law does of Right belong to them, do reſolve to go on with their Undertaking; and do hereby aſſure all ſuch Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, who have already contracted with the ſaid Company, or whoſoever ſhall from time to time hereafter contract with them for the Uſe of the ſaid Lamp-Lights, that is, for ſuch as are erected, or to be erected; That we the ſaid Company aforeſaid, ſhall and will ſave harmleſs and indemnified, all ſuch Perſons ſo contracting with us as aforeſaid, of and from all Dammages which has or ſhall accrew from the Pattentees, and of and from all Forfeitures for not hanging out a Candle and Lanthorn purſuant to the Direction of the afore recited Act; And what Threatnings ſoever has been made by the aforeſaid Pattentees, and their Agents is groundleſs, and what they cannot maintain and done only on purpoſe to amuſe and deceive you.

☞ And all Perſons that deſire to be furniſhed with our Lamps, or to be further ſatisfied in this Affair, if they pleaſe to come to our Office in *Crutched Friars*, within *Algate*, in the New Buildings; where we meet every *Tueſday* and *Friday* at Six a Clock in the Evening, may be furniſhed with the ſaid Lights, and fully ſatisfied about the whole matter, we being reſolved to ſtand the Teſt with all Pretenders: And not ſo eaſily looſe ſo conſiderable a Branch of our Trade.

F I N I S.